

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

first identification means for identifying input
image information as a character area, a photographic area,
or a screened halftone area;

5 output means for outputting a plurality of
identification signals for each area of the identified
image information; and

recording means for forming images with different
10 colors on the basis of the plurality of identification
signals.

2. A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

second identification means for identifying input
image information as a chromatic character area or an
15 achromatic character area;

output means for outputting a plurality of
identification signals for each area of the identified
image information; and

recording means for recording images with
20 different colors on the basis of the plurality of
identification signals.

3. The color image forming apparatus according
to claim 1, further comprising second identification means
for identifying the input image information as a chromatic
25 character area or an achromatic character area.

4. The color image forming apparatus according
to claim 1, further comprising specification means for

specifying colors for the respective identified areas.

5. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising specification means for specifying colors for the respective identified areas.

5 6. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising gradation processing means for gradation-processing the image information on the achromatic character area.

10 7. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising gradation processing means for gradation-processing the image information on the achromatic character area.

15 8. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first identification means has an identification reference value and further includes operation setting means for setting the identification reference value.

20 9. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second identification means has an identification reference value and further includes operation setting means for setting the identification reference value.

25 10. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first and second identification means have first and second identification reference values and further include operation setting means for setting the first and second identification reference values,

respectively.

11. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image information is obtained by reading a document with document reading means.

5 12. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the image information is obtained by reading a document with document reading means.

10 13. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising control means for determining whether the area identification processing result is good or not.

15 14. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising control means for determining whether the area identification processing result is good or not.

20 15. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising adjustment means for automatically adjusting the identification reference value on the basis of control signals output from said control means.

25 16. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising adjustment means for automatically adjusting the identification reference value on the basis of control signals output from said control means.

17. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said adjustment means are at least one

of spatial filter adjustment means, gamma control means, color conversion adjustment means, and error diffusion adjustment means.

5 18. The color image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said adjustment means are at least one of spatial filter adjustment means, gamma control means, color conversion adjustment means, and error diffusion adjustment means.

10 19. A color image forming method, comprising:
 identifying input image information as a character area, a photographic area, or a screened halftone area;
 outputting a plurality of identification signals for each area of the identified image information; and
 recording images with different colors on the
15 basis of the plurality of identification signals.

20 20. A color image forming method, comprising:
 identifying input image information as a chromatic character area or an achromatic character area;
 outputting a plurality of identification signals for each area of the identified image information; and
 recording images with different colors on the
25 basis of the plurality of identification signals.

21. The color image forming method according to claim 19, further comprising identifying the input image information as a chromatic character area or an achromatic character area.